

Today, all peer counselors must be at least 55 years old and are required to receive 60 hours of training to provide one-on-one and group counseling to older adults that covers social and family relationships, self awareness, listening skills, understanding depression, substance abuse and other challenges of aging.

Initially the Senior Peer Counseling served English speakers, but in 1989 it was expanded to Spanish speakers with the La Esperanza Vive component which Teresa Hurtado coordinated for over twenty years.

In 2008, the county put Peninsula Family Service in charge of Senior Peer Counseling which expanded the services to additional underserved seniors in the Chinese, Filipino and LGBT communities. Now a total of 80 peer counselors support over 300 seniors under the leadership of Susan Houston and Howard Lader and their dedicated staff.

Peer counseling deeply touches the lives of the people involved. One senior who was dependent on his electric wheel chair rarely left his home and became increasingly isolated. His social worker requested a senior peer counselor hoping it would help his social life and get him involved in a senior center close to his home. After six visits the senior asked the counselor to assist him in arranging transportation with Redi-Wheels and to join him at the senior center for the first couple of visits. The senior now happily goes to the center twice a week.

Patti Garber began volunteering as a counselor a few years ago. As a cancer patient herself, she says the work gives her a sense of purpose. "I get more back than I put in," she says. "I like solving problems and providing a web of connections." And that she does whether she helps a senior find food, apply for Social Security online, find a pet or get a wheel chair.

Arleen Henriksen who passed away last year at age 92, credited her long life in part to her volunteer counseling. Arleen, whom I had the privilege of knowing when she volunteered in my legislative offices, dedicated over 20 years and much of her energy to the program. In 2009, she told the San Mateo Daily Journal, "It's more rewarding for the counselor than the people you help." She added, "People get scared thinking that, to do this, they have to be psychologists. That's not the case; you don't have to be anything more than a caring person."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the caring people at Senior Peer Counseling who for 25 years have provided a remarkable service that has brightened the lives of thousands of seniors in San Mateo county. May it thrive for the next 25 years and serve as a model for other communities.

# RED TAPE REDUCTION AND SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4078) to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, this legislation is an amalgam of seven dangerously misguided bills designed to shut down a breathtaking number of safeguards and protections citizens rely on—from the quality of health care seniors receive to the safety of infant formula babies drink to the benefits our veterans have earned. As former Republican Congressman Sherry Boehlert has warned: "It's difficult to exaggerate the sweep and destructiveness of . . . (this) . . . bill."

The core of H.R. 4078 proposes to freeze most regulatory action until the nation's unemployment rate hits 6 percent—as if the quality of seniors' health care, the safety of infant formula or the availability of veterans' benefits should depend on where the nation's unemployment rate is. Another provision of H.R. 4078 would block so called "midnight rules" issued in the final days of an outgoing administration—without any apparent recognition that the offshore drilling bill the majority brought to the floor of the House just yesterday was itself largely proposed as a "midnight" regulation in the final days of the Bush Administration. Still other provisions in H.R. 4078 would tie up the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission with additional paperwork, thereby diverting already scarce resources from other critical functions, like ensuring transparency and accountability in our financial markets.

Mr. Chair, I am not opposed to regulatory reform. Where a regulation is truly wasteful, unnecessary or duplicative, we should fix it or get rid of it. But, like the comedy of errors surrounding the numerous typos leading up to consideration of this bill, H.R. 4078 is a poorly conceived, hastily thrown together mess. The American people deserve better.

## IN HONOR OF THE CENTRAL ELECTRIC COMPANY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Central Electric Company of Watsonville, California, on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. For 100 years, the Central Electric Company pioneered and improved safe electrical installations for residential, commercial, and agriculture customers around our beautiful Monterey Bay region.

In 1912, starting with just a bicycle, \$100.00 in cash, and a 5-foot ladder, John Stanovich and Edith DuFour Stanovich began selling fixtures and appliances, and installing electrical wiring. At that time the demand for electrical work was very limited, but with the growing acceptance of the Edison light, plus John and Edith's hard work, the business grew. The next generation joined the company in 1926 with the addition of Edith's son, Alfred DuFour. The Central Electric Company survived the great depression and the shortages of World War II by supplementing their contracting business selling products such as irons, washing

machines, and toasters, also china and crystal.

With the end of the war, the Central Electric Company focused on growing communities and industries in need of electricity. The next two decades would see the continuation of that post-war growth and the introduction of the company's third generation with Steve DuFour, who joined the company in 1958 after serving as a lieutenant in the United States Navy.

The seventies, eighties, and nineties saw continued growth and changes to the electrical industry, many of which were driven by the digital boom. Growth and change also came when Steve and his wife Joan were joined by Tony Kulich, Patty (DuFour) Kulich, Mark Jurach, and Sharon (DuFour) Jurach in the daily operations at Central Electric. In 1989, the company survived the Loma Prieta earthquake and rallied to aid the surrounding communities in their recovery. In 1999, Tony and Patty Kulich and Mark and Sharon Jurach, the son-in-laws and great granddaughters of John and Edith, purchased the Central Electric Company from Steve and Joan, passing the torch to the fourth generation.

The turn of this century saw the Central Electric Company's enjoyment of unprecedented growth, including the completion of a \$3.5 million contract for a local college campus. This was the largest contract in the company's 100 year history. This new century has also ushered in the fifth generation, when great, great-grandsons Matt and Mike Kulich joined Central Electric as electricians.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to hold up the Central Electric Company as an example of the American Spirit. Enduring the hardships of war, economic downturns, and natural disasters, they have shown that people are more important than profit. They have shown us that when communities and families work together in difficult times, we can continue to face the challenges that have made this Nation great. May Central Electric's continued success inspire many more generations to enter the business arena, and in doing so, secure our Nation's posterity and its bright future.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2012*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state for the record that my vote against the Holt amendment, Roll No. 504, to H.R. was made in error. I support this amendment, which would strike a provision that requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a single multi-sale environmental impact statement for all of the new areas opened for drilling by the underlying bill.

## HONORING THUNDER BAY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

**HON. DAN BENISHEK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2012*

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the First District of Michigan, I

wish to commend the Thunder Bay Community Health Service (TBCHS) for 30 years of dedicated service to comprehensive and preventative health care.

Over the past three decades, TBCHS has been committed to the vital work of bringing high quality, cost effective, and accessible health care to Northern Michigan. Working out of five centers in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula, TBCHS ensures that residents of Northern Michigan receive first rate medical care. It is fitting that TBCHS celebrates this important milestone during National Health Center Week. Community health centers, like TBCHS, are at the core of our health care system.

Since seeing their first patient in 1982, the dedicated providers and administrators of TBCHS have continually adapted their care to meet the changing needs of Northern Michigan families. By providing preventive services and comprehensive primary health care, TBCHS keeps our families healthy while also preventing costlier health care alternatives such as emergency room treatment.

The doctors, nurses, and other providers of TBCHS cannot do this alone, but are supported by dedicated staff and board members. The TBCHS team has been a trusted community partner, from providing nursing services in local schools to conducting senior companion programs.

As a doctor who has treated patients for nearly 30 years and as a life-long resident of Northern Michigan, I greatly appreciate the commitment of TBCHS to empower healthier communities by making quality health care more affordable for Northern Michigan families.

On behalf of the over 13,000 patients who receive its care each year, I wish to thank Thunder Bay Community Health Service for 30 years of commitment and care. I know these successes will continue for the next 30 years and beyond.

HONORING JEANNE J. GRIMMETT

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this occasion to recognize the outstanding achievements of Jeanne J. Grimmer, a career legislative attorney with the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service, who will be retiring from CRS on August 31, after 41 years of distinguished government service. Jeanne, for decades, has been the leading legal expert on trade law at CRS, and she has made invaluable contributions to the work of the U.S. Congress in this critical policy area.

After receiving a B.A. from the College of New Rochelle in New York, Jeanne began her government service at the Library of Congress in 1971. She obtained a J.D. from George Washington University in 1978, and joined CRS that same year. She chose to specialize in trade law and related subjects soon thereafter and received an L.L.M. from the London School of Economics in 1986.

During her career, Jeanne has prepared numerous memoranda, reports, and provided briefings for Members and Congressional

committees, working collaboratively with colleagues in other divisions of CRS, while contributing legal analysis for the Congress during the key trade debates that were held over the years. Jeanne was also a section head in the Courts Section of the American Law Division for several years, coordinating requests and reviewing work related to the Iran-Contra investigation and various judicial nominations.

As a legislative attorney, Jeanne provided direct support to Members, Senators, and major Congressional committees on the complex legal issues related to U.S. participation in the NAFTA, the World Trade Organization, and various U.S. free trade agreements, most recently the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The depth and breadth of her expertise is demonstrated by noting the subjects she has addressed for the Congress during her tenure at CRS: trade with nonmarket economies; dispute settlement under trade agreements; trade and environmental issues, including climate change; antidumping and countervailing duty law and other trade remedies; customs and country-of-origin legislation; Federal and State economic sanctions; trade sanctions reform; foreign assistance and foreign public debt authorities; export controls administered by various U.S. agencies; trade in encryption technology; the scope of U.S. extraterritorial jurisdiction and, in particular, jurisdiction over foreign defendants; investment treaties and investor-State dispute settlement; and the U.S. law of international agreements in general.

Jeanne also contributed to the House Ways and Means Committee "Blue Book" of trade laws, as well as to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee print, Treaties and Other International Agreements: The Role of the United States Senate, the primary reference source on this subject. She has also mentored new attorneys in trade law and given numerous presentations on trade law subjects in the American Law Division's semi-annual Federal Law Update series for Members of Congress and their legal staff.

Jeanne Grimmer has provided exemplary service to the Congress throughout her distinguished career at CRS. I believe that all in the Congress who have benefitted from her expertise and counsel join me in wishing her the very best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROB RIGSBY

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2012*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mr. Rob Rigsby as he retires from the United States General Services Administration and his post at the Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse. As his wife Marilyn, his friends and colleagues all gather to celebrate his outstanding career, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Rob and his almost four decades of public service.

Throughout his 37-year career in federal service, the last 13 years at the Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse, Rob has become a well-loved and respected leader among his colleagues and building occupants. Rob began his post as Building Manager the day the building opened in 1999. Since then,

he has been a loyal and hard working member of the building team and has devoted his time to making Sacramento's federal courthouse the remarkable building that it is today.

My late husband, Congressman Robert Matsui, and I have had our district offices in the courthouse that Rob manages. I have got to know him over the years and always appreciated his attention to detail and customer service. Rob is no stranger to my district staff, who I know share my appreciation for his work. We will always be thankful for all that he has done to make both the Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse and my district office an inviting place for all of my constituents.

Beyond his work, Rob has always had a passion for travel and upon his retirement, he will be leaving us to embark on a new journey as the owner of Ships and Trips Travel. I also understand that he will be taking a much deserved cruise.

Mr. Speaker, as Rob Rigsby prepares to retire from federal service, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him good fortune in his future endeavors. Rob has truly been a wonderful member of the federal family and will be missed by all of his friends and colleagues. I wish him well on the next chapter of his life.

HONORING FRANK C. FRANCO

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2012*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service of Mr. Frank Franco or as we affectionately call him, "Franco". Frank Franco's many years of dedicated service to the community and our nation's veterans exemplifies his reverence for our country and truly demonstrates the best of what America has to offer.

Frank Franco was born in El Centro, California. He joined the United States Army at age 17 and honorably served his country with two tours of service in Vietnam.

A tireless advocate for helping people, Franco has been with Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, EOC, for over 30 years. He is a hard worker and has held many leadership positions in the community. Franco is a past director of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, is on the Mayor's Advisory Committee and is a past recipient of the Key to the City of Fresno.

Each year, Franco travels to our nation's capital with the Fresno Council of Governments One Voice-DC trip. Franco has over 50 proclamations and awards he has received throughout the years. In addition to his civic leadership, Franco is also a proud member of Veterans of Foreign War, VFW, Post 8900 in Fresno. He serves on my Veteran Leaders Advisory Group and participates in numerous local veterans' events, such as the Veterans Stand Down. Franco is always helping, always working.

I applaud Frank Franco for his many years of tireless work on behalf of the community, on behalf of veterans and their families and the Central Valley. We know Franco will enjoy more time with his wife, Maria, his children, Jack Arthur, Madelene, and Tina, and his grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that in addition to his countless gifts to the community,